

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the instant application. Claims 21-29 have been amended. The Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following amendments reflected in the listing of claims.

Listing of claims:

1. (Original) A method for providing and configuring secure communication links, the method comprising:

 determining any one usable media pair from all existing media pairs of a first device;

 selecting any one channel from all existing channels, said selected any one channel being different from a general channel assignment corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair; and

 assigning said selected any one channel to said any one media pair.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising notifying a second device of said assigned any one channel which corresponds to said any one media pair.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, comprising cross-connecting a corresponding channel and media pair for said second device, said cross-connected channel and media pair being equivalent to said selected any one channel assigned to said any one media pair.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising negotiating said assignment of said selected any one channel to said any one media pair.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising selecting from a plurality of predetermined channel and media pair assignments, a particular one of said channel and media pair assignment.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising: designating a first combination of said channel assigned to said any one media pair as a communication channel and media pair; and designating a second combination of said channel assigned to said any one media pair as a control channel and media pair.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, comprising securely transferring communication traffic via said communication channel and media pair.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, comprising securely transferring control information via at least one of said communication channel and media pair.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, comprising: monitoring at least one of said communication channel and media pair by a second device; and
determining said selected any one channel assigned to said any one media pair.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said control information is at least one of authentication information, encryption information, channel setup information and link provisioning and link maintenance information.

11. (Previously presented) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a program having at least one code section for providing and configuring

secure communication links, the at least one code section being executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform steps comprising:

 determining any one usable media pair from all existing media pairs of a first device;

 selecting any one channel from all existing channels, said selected any one channel being different from a general channel assignment corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair; and

 assigning said selected any one channel to said any one media pair.

12. (Previously presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, comprising code for notifying a second device of said assigned any one channel which corresponds to said any one media pair.

13. (Previously presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 12, comprising code for cross-connecting a corresponding channel and media pair for said second device, said cross-connected channel and media pair being equivalent to said selected any one channel assigned to said any one media pair.

14. (Previously presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, comprising code for negotiating said assignment of said selected any one channel to said any one media pair.

15. (Previously presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, comprising code for selecting from a plurality of predetermined channel and media pair assignments, a particular one of said channel and media pair assignment.

16. (Previously presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, comprising:

code for designating a first combination of said channel assigned to said any one media pair as a communication channel and media pair; and

code for designating a second combination of said channel assigned to said any one media pair as a control channel and media pair.

17. (Previously presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 16, comprising code for securely transferring communication traffic via said communication channel and media pair.

18. (Previously presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 17, comprising code for securely transferring control information via at least one of said communication channel and media pair.

19. (Previously presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 18, comprising:

code for monitoring at least one of said communication channel and media pair by a second device; and

code for determining said selected any one channel assigned to said any one media pair.

20. (Original) The machine-readable storage according to claim 19, wherein said control information is at least one of authentication information, encryption information, channel setup information and link provisioning and link maintenance information.

21. (Currently amended) A system for providing and configuring secure communication links, the system comprising:

at least one controller adapted~~enabled~~ to determine any one usable media pair from all existing media pairs of a first device;

at least one selector adapted/enabled to select any one channel from all existing channels, said selected any one channel being different from a general channel assignment corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair; and

said at least one controller adapted/enabled to assign said selected any one channel to said any one media pair.

22. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one controller is adapted/enabled to notify a second device of said assigned any one channel which corresponds to said any one media pair.

23. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 22, wherein said at least one selector is adapted/enabled to cross-connect a corresponding channel and media pair for said second device, said cross-connected channel and media pair being equivalent to said selected any one channel assigned to said any one media pair.

24. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one controller is adapted/enabled to negotiate said assignment of said selected any one channel to said any one media pair.

25. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one selector is adapted/enabled to select from a plurality of predetermined channel and media pair assignments, a particular one of said channel and media pair assignment.

26. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one selector is adapted/enabled to:

designate a first combination of said channel assigned to said any one media pair as a communication channel and media pair; and

designate a second combination of said channel assigned to said any one media pair as a control channel and media pair.

27. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 26, wherein said at least one controller is a—adapted/enabled to transfer communication traffic via said communication channel and media pair.

28. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 27, wherein said at least one controller is a—adapted/enabled to transfer control information via at least one of said communication channel and media pair.

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29. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 28, wherein at least one controller associated with a second device is adaptedenabled to: monitor at least one of said communication channel and media pair by a second device; and determine said selected any one channel assigned to said any one media pair.

30. (Original) The system according to claim 29, wherein said control information is at least one of authentication information, encryption information, channel setup information and link provisioning and link maintenance information.